



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Elliott Ladik Motorsports – Fueled by Passion – TM (Avanti Motorsports LLC)
Contact: Joe Ladik | +1.206.354.6438 Mobile | info@elliottladik.com
Website: www.elliottladik.com

Podium finish for Elliott Ladik during the first race weekend of the 2006 season

Budapest, HUNGARY - May 6th, 2006... Elliott Ladik of USA delivers a podium finish during the season opening of the 2006 Suzuki Swift Cup at the Hungaroring F1 Grand Prix track.

The youngest competitor at the age of 16, and the only American in the series, Elliott Ladik had an extraordinary and challenging start to his 2006 season opener. With only about 100 testing miles under his belt at the Hungaroring Racetrack, Ladik faced an uphill battle right from the start. He had less than half a day to get familiar with the Hungaroring, learn the handling characteristics of the car, and make necessary technical adjustment to be competitive.

Since the Suzuki is a Front Wheel Drive car, Ladik immediately realized that in order to perform on the top level; he would have to change his driving style drastically as it was more suited for Rear Wheel-Drive race cars. This is unfortunately too slow in the Suzuki. In addition, the Team was preoccupied with resolving number of technical issues related to the engine management system. During the Practice, and the Qualifying day, Ladik's car was 20% down on power, nevertheless, he was still able to qualify 13th out of 20 cars. As 13th place would not be disappointing for a rookie's season opener, the pressure was mounting on the young American. The expectations to deliver results were high, both from the Team and the Sponsors.

During Heat race 1, lined up at the grid waiting for the lights to go green, Ladik's engine cut-out, and as the result, he immediately dropped to 19th position. Eager to get back into the game, he regained 5 positions after the first two turns. While passing for position he was hit hard by a competitor that sent him into a wild spin on the track. Ladik worked his way up with the now ill-handling car to be hit yet again during the last lap. Ultimately, he was able to bring the car to the finish line on 10th place.

Things were looking up for the American on Sunday morning at the final race day, as it rained hard during the morning. Ladik, the Seattle Native, huge fan of rainy driving conditions saw his opportunity to shine. He and his team faced another challenge - the lack of time to install the rain tires. The team gave Ladik two options: miss the qualifying, or try the impossible - qualify on racing-slicks. He immediately undertaken the challenge, and opted for running on *Used Racing Slicks* to qualify. A few adjustments to the car, and he was on his way to show what he is capable of.

The only competitor on slicks, Ladik's wild and rally-inspired driving skills did not go unnoticed as he drifted his car around the turns on the wet track to qualify 6th (!) From there, podium finish was not out of the question.

The START was great, as Ladik gained a few positions right away. On lap three he made a move on the racer in front of him to challenge for 2nd position when an aggressive blocking resulted in a hard hit to Ladik's Suzuki. From here on with damaged car Ladik brought his race car home to the chequered flag finishing 3rd.

Elliott Ladik: *Today at the Hungaroring I stood on the same podium as Formula One's greatest, Michael Schumacher. My first Champagne Podium celebration was unbelievable...a great taste of victory! Especially when we consider the circumstances with my car and the learning curve involved. Last night my team worked until almost 11pm to fix my car so that I could deliver today. I would like to thank my Team RabocsiRing for their hard work and that they supported me in the transition period. I would also like to thank my sponsors and my family and friends for their continuous support.*

My first racing experience at the Hungaroring was crazy to say the least. The Hungarian competitors are very tough. If there is an inch of opening - they go for it. Also, my first huge collision was crazy, but I just kept driving. I am a quick learner, and I am ready to defend my position and...I am here to race and win! I was also able to fully test my SportVue Heads Up Display™ unit provided by Motion Research Corporation. This device worked as expected. I was able to keep my eyes on the road and my competitors within my sight while getting lap-time readings even during my battles for position that involved a lot of shoving and contact. I had a really good reference of my track performance just by glancing at my lap time.

Elliott Ladik will now move onto the next event, a Rally Hill-Climb race in the South-Western part of Hungary at the end of May 2006.

Elliott Ladik's website at www.elliottladik.com is currently being updated and should be available soon. Please visit the site soon for further information and for the latest updates.